



## MATTERS OF OPINION

I feel compelled to mention the tragic events that took place September 11, 2001. This unprovoked attack on America affected all of us. We have been touched and our lives will never be the same. I can't help but think that this was a wake-up call for all of us. It is often said that it is not what happens to us, but how we deal with it that determines our future.

We in the Department will continue to do what we have planned for the future. We will work hard to continue our Participative Management system designed to direct fiscal and manpower resources toward defined objectives. We will continue to monitor and support the federal farm bill that includes assistance for our farmers and provides sound conservation practices. We will continue our support of the Conservation and Restoration Act as this federal legislation would allow us to provide greater opportunities for people who hunt and fish in North Dakota.

The hard work done by our Department to protect, conserve, and enhance our natural resources has contributed to making ecotourism a growing business in North Dakota. This is one of the most important byproducts of conservation and wise management. Many businesses are springing up to take advantage of North Dakota's outdoor opportunities. We will continue to monitor the commercialization of wildlife and strive for sensible regulations to protect our natural resources.

We are highly supportive of wise management of public land. We will continue to do our best to provide boating and



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shore access facilities on our lakes and streams. Our Save Our Lakes (SOL) program will direct efforts to improving conditions that will ensure better water quality and fishing in state lakes. We have increased our outreach program and will do anything possible to improve our communication, coordination and cooperation with sportspeople and landowners.

For the most part we will continue to do what we were doing before the tragic events in September. We will continue our special effort to maintain the wonderful quality of life in North Dakota by providing the best hunting and fishing possible. It will encourage people to enjoy the great North Dakota outdoors so they may renew their spirit.

Be thankful for our state and nation.